

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-21 stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended and new claim 22 has been added. No new matter has been added. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,066,089 ("Costello"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Among the limitations independent claim 1 not present in Costello is "a flexible tube holding member including a tip fixing portion to fix a tip of the flexible tube thereto." Costello does not disclose this explicitly recited limitation in which the tip portion of the flexible tube is fixed to the tip fixing portion and wound around the flexible tube holding member. Because the tip portion of the flexible tube is fixed, it is possible to wind the flexible tube around the cylindrical portion without the flexible tube floating up and it is easy to coil the flexible tube. This feature is not shown or disclosed in Costello. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in light of Costello.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 17, 19, 21, and 22 depend either directly or indirectly from, and contain all the limitations of claim 1. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of claim 1, are neither disclosed nor suggested by Costello and are also believed to be directed towards the patentable subject matter. Thus, claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 17, 19, 21, and

22 should also be allowed.

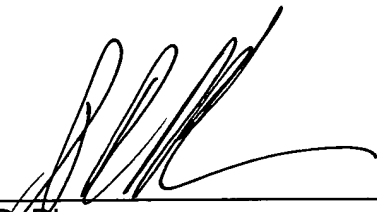
Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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